

**Chatman, Cheryl A NWW**

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**From:** gahrfarm@moriah.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 29, 2000 11:19 AM  
**To:** Salmonstudy; federalcaucus@bpa.gov; senator@wyden.senate.gov  
**Cc:** sos@wildsalmon.org; vice.president@whitehouse.gov  
**Subject:** We need salmon and those dams don't make sense!

The Army Corp of Engineers environmental impact study of breaching the Snake River Dams acknowledges the threat to fish and other natural life from sediments and chemicals. The prediction for many years of polluted water and no short term benefits, will likely diminish public support for species recovery. The breaching alternative is extremely contentious with a very real potential to become a major disaster. It is time to aggressively pursue recovery efforts with more immediate benefits and less risk to the environment. These include reducing harvest and predators, improving culvert and dam passage, stocking low productive streams, restricting activities that pollute streams, and habitat restoration.

Selected and copied from the Army Corp Engineers study on Snake river Dam Breaching. [www.nww.usace.army.mil/](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/). We estimate that 50 to 75 million cubic yards of existing sediments may be eroded and moved downstream. The majority of fine-grain silts would move quickly in the first few years following breaching. The coarser sands would move slowly downstream over 5 to 10 years. Resuspension of sediments following dam breaching could result in exposing chemical contaminants that have been contained in reservoir sedimentation. Three chemicals are of concern total DDT, dioxin TEQ, and manganese. But for two or three years after dam breaching, adverse effects from elevated suspended sediment and possible burial of rearing habitat could occur. These may cause fall and spring adult migration delays for two or three years during and following dam breaching, as well as reduced subyearling chinook salmon rearing habitat quality in the Snake River. The movement of sediment may also reduce the quality of spawning habitats in the lower Snake River for many years following dam removal. High water temperatures, such as those observed before the dams, may occur."

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